

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Reed et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,862,325 (hereafter "Reed") in view of Palm, U.S. Publication No. 2001/0042107 A1 (hereafter "Palm").

Preliminarily, Applicants note that the Final Office Action is ambiguous in that it states that the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and §102(b). Applicants believe the intent of the Final Office Action is to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). However, Applicants request clarification of this by the Examiner. In either case, Applicants disagree and request withdrawal of the rejections for at least the following reasons.

The present invention is directed at an automated authentication handling system which includes, among other things, an authentication server adapted to establish a two-way, trusted communication link for access by an authenticated user to a list of application servers associated with a client identifier, and related methods. Neither Reed nor Palm, taken separately or in combination, discloses an authentication server as in the claims of the present invention.

As indicated in Applicants' previous responses and admitted by the Examiner in the present Office Action, Reed does not disclose or suggest an authentication server which establishes a two-way, trusted communication link for access by an authenticated user to a list of application servers associated

with a client identifier. More particularly, the Final Office Action correctly states that Reed “does not teach a list of application servers”. This is true, however, Reed is also silent as to an authentication server which establishes “a two-way, trusted communication link” for access by an authenticated user which enables the users to access a list of application servers which are associated with the client identifier. The references to Reed mentioned in the Final Office Action which allegedly disclose a two-way, trusted communication link do not in fact disclose a two-way, trusted communication link that allows an authenticated user to access a list of application servers associated with a client identifier. At most, the references to Reed (column 76, lines 34-44 and column 81, lines 59-67) disclose a two-way link. There is no discussion or suggestion of the link being a trusted communication link, no discussion or suggestion of the link being established between an authenticated user and an authentication server, and no discussion or suggestion that the two-way link allows an authenticated user access to a list of application servers associated with a client identifier, as in the claims of the present invention. Nor does the addition of Palm overcome these deficiencies.

The relevance that Palm appears to have to the present application is that it discusses the use of multiple servers, referred to as media servers 115. There is no discussion or suggestion in Palm of an authentication server as in the claims of the present invention. The closest Palm comes to a discussion of

authentication at all is in paragraphs 92 through 94. In these paragraphs Palm generally discusses that a multi-media device 105 can be authorized to access a media server 115 using a registration phase or an authorized client-based authentication certificate. A fair reading of Palm is that the registration process and/or authentication certificate involves the multi-media device 105 or the media server 115, neither of which perform the functions of an authentication server. Notably, the gateway 110 which connects the multi-media device 105 to a media server 115 is not disclosed as possessing any kind of authentication capability whatsoever. In sum, Palm does not disclose or suggest an authentication server, as in the claims of the present invention.

In addition, Palm does not disclose or suggest any device which allows an authenticated user to access a list of application servers associated with a client identifier. Instead, each of the media servers 115 is associated with its own registration phase or authentication certificate. In contrast, the claims of the present invention only require a single client identifier in order to access a list of application servers.

In sum, neither Reed nor Palm, taken separately or in combination, disclose or suggest an authentication server which is adapted to: (a) establish a two-way, trusted communication link for access by an authenticated user; (b) where the establishment of the link allows the authenticated user to access a list of application servers; and where (c) the servers are associated with a single

client identifier, as in the claims of the present invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Final Rejection and allowance of claims 1-14.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

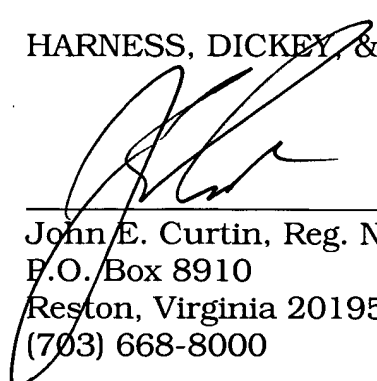
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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